

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2006

The Emergency Management Advisory Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 8:00 A.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Advisory Council Members present were: President Jimmie Kesterson, Vice Chairman Nathan Miller, Dave Reagan, Carol Shelby, John Withers, County Councilmember Ronald L. Fruitt, and Commissioner Ruth E. Shedd. Also present: Director Mark Kirby, Deputy Director Tim Batta, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (County Attorney David W. Luhman and Advisory Council Members Mike Kyger, Garry Smith, and John Walker were absent.)

Chairman Jimmie Kesterson called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

- Councilmember Fruitt moved to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2005 Meeting as distributed, seconded by Ms Shelby; motion carried.

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Kesterson commented on the miscommunication in the recent mine disaster in West Virginia and asserted we don't want miscommunication to happen here.

Budget/Finance

Director Kirby distributed a Budget Summary through December 31, 2005 that showed the 2005 Budget was 92% spent. He commented that the County Council approved increases in some of the line items in the 2006 Budget. The Budget Summary through January 6, 2006 showed expenditures for Garage Supplies and Utilities for a total of 1% spent.

Appropriation Request

Director Kirby reported he missed the deadline for submitting an additional appropriation request to the County Council for their meeting in January to pay for the Christopher Burke Feasibility Study. He submitted it for the February meeting but reported that a Burke representative will attend the February TEMA meeting to outline the procedure.

"KIT" System

Director Kirby reported Montgomery County no longer has the "KIT" System because they couldn't get support. However, Director Kirby said he found information on the system at the TEMA Office and will pass it on to Mr. Smith. Chairman Kesterson directed him to pass it on to Mr. Reagan, Chairman of the Communications Committee, who will determine if it is usable and make a recommendation at the next TEMA Meeting.

"Talk Around"

Director Kirby reported he was asked at the last meeting if they could go direct portable to portable. He said they cannot because the radios were not programmed with "talk around" which requires permitting. He said they can go direct on the State frequency.

Contract with Volunteers

A contract between the volunteers and the County was discussed at the December 2005 meeting. Director Kirby reported the volunteers' application for 501c3 status is moving forward slowly. As part of that process, the volunteers are working on writing by-laws which reference an agreement with the County that they won't circumvent the Director and that they operate for the County through TEMA.

Storm Spotter Training

Storm Spotter Training will be held at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at the County Extension Office.

Mobile Command Center

Director Kirby reported his frustration in dealing with LDB, the manufacturer, regarding the lack of training on equipment and the lack of response regarding repairs to equipment that doesn't work. He has talked to the salesman but feels contact needs to be made with someone with more authority. He is concerned because the one year warranty on the equipment expires in July.

Commissioner Shedd advised Director Kirby to ask for Attorney Luhman's advice on how to proceed.

Haz-Mat Trailers

The trailers are outfitted and Director Kirby would like the Advisory Council to tour them when warmer weather arrives.

Night TEMA Meeting

Director Kirby repeated his request to hold a TEMA Advisory Council Meeting at night so the volunteers can attend. Chairman Kesterson advised him to poll the volunteers to determine how many are really interested before scheduling a night meeting. Mr. Miller suggested waiting until the Burke study is completed.

Earthquakes

Director Kirby monitors the New Madrid Fault on a website and said various people in the community also monitor earthquake activity and keep him apprised.

Siren Test

During the siren test on January 7th, TEMA received six calls regarding malfunctioning sirens but one was unfounded. The siren located at Cary Camp did not activate due to a possible lightening strike. Commissioner Shedd noted that insurance may cover sirens struck by lightening.

Communications Committee

Mr. Reagan said the committee has not met but he will report on progress with the "KIT" system at the February TEMA meeting.

Mr. Reagan said the I-Tap Computer System in the Engineering Department at Purdue is working on putting emergency warnings across the bottom of employees' computer screens. Chairman Kesterson said Caterpillar has the e-Pop Program that can be put on the computer network to alert users.

Mr. Reagan said the Civil Air Patrol, at the direction of FEMA, has a large box filled with all supplies needed for airplanes that will be dropped from a C130 at a designated point in case of an earthquake along the New Madrid Fault. Director Kirby said an earthquake is the biggest single disaster that can happen to our area. Satellite phones may be purchased with grant monies for use if all other communication methods are knocked out.

Haz-Mat Team Report

Deputy Director Batta reported one response by the Team for a gasoline tanker on I-65. The tanker people offloaded 8,000 gallons of gasoline, but Deputy Director Batta said he had a difficult time getting them to ground the tanker to prevent static electricity before off-loading. Director Kirby said they complied with this requirement but only after the responding State Police Trooper supported Haz-Mat. He emphasized that TEMA and Haz-Mat have no authority to force compliance.

Ms Shelby interjected that TEMA has to rely on law enforcement to enforce compliance.

Chairman Kesterson asserted that the Incident Command System should control the event. Director Kirby responded that no Incident Command System was established for this event or the two other such incidents that occurred on I-65 that same day.

Councilmember Fruitt asked if TEMA personnel can be deputized? Director Kirby said Sheriff Anderson is “mulling” that possibility over.

Chairman Kesterson and Mr. Withers agreed that law enforcement should not abandon volunteers when they are asked to direct traffic or help in an incident because they have no enforcement power. Chairman Kesterson asked Director Kirby to call a meeting of the department heads of County emergency agencies or meet with them individually to get these issues resolved. Ms Shelby advised Director Kirby to get on the Chiefs’ Agenda. Chairman Kesterson asked Director Kirby to report on this issue at the next TEMA meeting and to report to him in the short term.

Flu Epidemic

Director Kirby reported that the Health Department is actively talking about the Flu Epidemic but he is not confident there is a solid plan. Ms Shelby said the process is moving forward slowly but thinks direction will come from the CDC (Center for Disease Control) in Atlanta. Director Kirby said he and Health Department officials are meeting with schools next week regarding their policy if there is an epidemic outbreak.

Next Meeting

The TEMA Advisory Council’s next meeting will be held at 8:00 A.M., Tuesday, February 14, 2006 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building.

Adjournment

Mr. Withers moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Miller; motion carried.

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor